

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell, January 4, 1892, with transcript

ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL TO MABEL (Hubbard) BELL Beinn Bhreagh, C. B. Monday, Jan. 4th, 1892. JOURNAL

Damp muggy day — no frost no snow anywhere in sight — ground not yet frozen though last year at this time people were driving on the ice in the bay.

No letters from Italy yet — not even a word from Gibraltar.

Continuous experiments on plaster moulds to get rid of fly-speck holes. Made two moulds with ozok. cylinder set up in midst of liquid plaster — while surface of ozok. cylinder was brushed gently with a rabbit's toe from which the nail had been drawn. This makes a beautifully soft brush.

Another cylinder was oiled with sperm oil which I find does not attack ozokerite. (Olive oil dissolves it or at least affects it greatly. Drop piece of ozok. into olive oil and in short time oil looks something like port-wine)

Cylinder was passed through layer of sperm oil into liquid plaster below. Cannot tell results for some days. Afternoon — and evening — Mr. Ellis at work on a new wing piece for flying machine. Distance a to b is 6 feet ($\frac{1}{4}$ inch short.) Hope to try it tomorrow. Will use same boiler employed in last experiment — and if the longer pipe a, c, b — does better than the other — than I know where I am — and will be encouraged to proceed. Think my point is most important — apply power to external circumference of rotating fan wheel — instead of to the axle. Only a small fraction of the power then required.

Noted Jan. 4th, 1892.

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A.G.B.